

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

MID-PACIFIC REGION

**SOUTH-CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AREA OFFICE
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA**

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**HENRY MILLER RECLAMATION DISTRICT NO. 2131 BOUNDARY DRAIN AND WEST
DELTA DRAIN PROJECT**

**Central Valley Project
Fresno, California
FONSI-07-34**

Recommended by:

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Date: _____

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In accordance with Section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the South-Central California Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) finds that the proposed action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for the proposed awarding of a Water Conservation Field Service Grant to the Henry Miller Reclamation District (HMRD) to upgrade water flow monitoring equipment at two sites. This Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) is supported by the attached Environmental Assessment, (EA) *Henry Miller Reclamation District No. 2131 Boundary Drain and West Delta Drain Project* (EA-07-34).

PROPOSED ACTION

Reclamation proposes to award a Water Conservation Field Service Grant to HMRD for its project that would upgrade flow rate and water quality monitoring equipment at two locations within its district boundaries. These two locations are in the Boundary Drain and the West Delta Drain.

The data collected from the upgraded devices would be sent to the Water Master at HMRD in real time to be used for efficient programming, thereby reducing time spent on water monitoring, preventing spills, and helping to ensure accurate water deliveries.

FINDINGS

Biological Resources

Native habitats, most sensitive species, and critical habitat do not occur in the area that will be affected by the project. Special-status species such as the giant garter snake, western pond turtle, and Swainson's Hawk will be protected by the implementation of appropriate avoidance measures and will not be affected. Effects on more common species will be minimized by conservation measures and will not rise to a population-level effect. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant impacts on biological resources.

Cultural Resources

The awarding of a Water Conservation Field Service Grant to the HMRD will not adversely affect historic properties pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1). The sites that will be subject to ground disturbance have been previously disturbed by cultivation and drain construction and maintenance. The approval of this action will not occur until consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer has been completed.

Hydrology and Water Quality

Measures have been incorporated to protect water quality and to maintain any downstream flows. This type of activity has been granted a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification by the State Water Resources Control Board, subject to specific conditions and notification requirements, which certifies that the Proposed Action will only have minimal indirect and cumulative impacts on water quality. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in significant impacts on hydrology and water quality.

Waters of the United States

The project has been designed to minimize the fill of waters of the United States as much as possible. The work at each site fits under Nationwide Permit No. 5 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that no mitigation is required. Activities authorized under Nationwide permits will cause only minimal individual and cumulative adverse impacts. Therefore, the Proposed Action will not significantly impact waters of the United States.

Cumulative Effects

The Proposed Action will not result in any direct or indirect impacts on special-status biological resources or cultural resources and therefore will not contribute cumulatively to any impacts on those resources. Impacts on common biological resources will be minimized to a level that will not impact populations and will therefore not result in more than a very minor cumulative impact. The State Water Resources Control Board has determined that activities under Nationwide Permit No. 5 will not have more than minimal cumulative impacts on water quality, and the applicability of a Nationwide permit means that there will be only minimal cumulative impacts on waters of the United States.